

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-15 remain pending; claims 1, 7 and 15 are independent.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 has been amended to address the indefiniteness noted by the Examiner. The applicant and the undersigned thank the Examiner for the assistance in this regard.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**Claim 1**

Independent claim 1 has been amended to define applicant's lock for telescoping poles as including a collar that is radially constrictable relative to the base. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter formerly recited in claim 4, i.e., wherein the first portion of the fastener defines an unthreaded cylindrical conformation that is located in the first bore defined by the first ear with a tight frictional fit sufficient to restrain the fastener against rotation upon movement of the lever between the unlocked/locked positions.

Nothing in Cova discloses or fairly suggests the lock recited in amended claim 1. Cova does not disclose a base, a neck projecting from the base, a collar connected to the neck, *wherein the collar is radially constrictable relative to the base*. The Examiner seems to be stating that the portion 148 of Cova is both a collar and a base. However, nothing in Cova discloses a collar that is restrictable *relative to* a base.

Cova includes no disclosure or suggestion of *frictional engagement between an unthreaded portion of the fastener 18 and any part of the lock to prevent rotation of the fastener* during rotational movement of the lever 26. Cova relates to a cam arrangement that obviates the need for any frictional restraint of the fastener 18 during movement of the lever 26, i.e., in Cova, there is no need to restrain the fastener via friction against rotation

with the lever 26 because the lever is never advanced on a threaded distal end of the fastener to constrict the clamp.

Nothing in Schlegel overcomes these deficiencies of Cova. As such, amended claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 7

Claim 7 has been amended to define the telescoping pole apparatus as including a lock having a collar that is selectively radially constrictable *relative to a base*. The control member mates threadably with the fastener, and the fastener is frictionally engaged with the collar so as to be restrained against movement together with the lever. Nothing in Cova, Schlegel, or any other reference of record discloses or fairly suggests such an arrangement. As such, allowance of claim 7 is respectfully requested, and claims 9-14 are submitted to be allowable therewith.

Claim 15

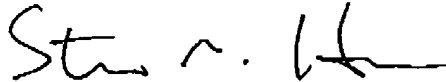
Claim 15 defines a lock as including a collar that is selectively radially constrictable *relative to the first portion*. The screw includes an unthreaded cylindrical portion that is tightly frictionally engaged with only one of the first and second ears. This frictional engagement restrains rotation of the screw when the lever is threadably advanced or reversed on the screw. As noted above, Cova doesn't relate to such a threaded connection. Nothing in Cova, Schlegel or any other document of record discloses the claimed frictional engagement.

With particular reference to Schlegel, it is clear from FIG. 3 that the screw 11 is not frictionally engaged with either clamping shell 4,5. This is readily apparent because the screw 11 is threaded along its entire length. Claim 15 specifically defines the screw as

including an unthreaded portion.

Claim 15 is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 4, 16 and 17 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 15 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A lock for temporarily fixedly securing first and second associated pole sections in a telescoped arrangement, said lock comprising:

a base defining an axially extending through-bore adapted for close sliding receipt of an end portion of a first associated pole section;

a neck projecting from said base;

a collar connected to said neck and radially constrictable relative to said base, said collar defining an opening aligned with said axially extending through-bore of said base, said collar adapted for close sliding receipt of a second associated pole section partially telescoped into said first associated pole section [and connected to said neck], wherein said collar is defined by first and second collar portions connected to said neck and terminating in respective first and second ears arranged in spaced-apart relation to each other, said ears defining respective first and second bores;

a fastener extending through said first and second bores between said first and second ears, said fastener including a head abutting said first ear, an unthreaded first portion frictionally engaged with a portion of said first ear that defines said first bore to inhibit unintentional rotation of said fastener and a threaded distal end extending through said second bore defined in said second ear and projecting outwardly from said second ear;

a lever having a head defining a threaded aperture that is threadably engaged with said threaded distal end of said fastener, said lever movable rotatably relative to said threaded distal end of said fastener between an unlocked position, wherein said collar

slidably receives and accommodates a second associated pole section, and a locked position, wherein said head of said lever is advanced on said threaded distal end of said fastener toward said head of said fastener and urges said second ear toward said first ear to constrict said collar radially relative to said base into frictional gripping engagement with a second associated pole section received in the collar, wherein said first portion of said fastener defines an unthreaded cylindrical conformation that is located in said first bore defined by said first ear with a tight frictional fit sufficient to restrain said fastener against rotation upon movement of said lever between said unlocked and said locked positions.

6. (Amended) The lock as set forth in claim 4, wherein said threaded distal end of said [screw] fastener defines a double lead left-handed thread.

7. (Amended) A telescoping pole apparatus comprising:
a first pole section defining a first bore;
a second pole section slidably located in said first bore of said first pole section in a telescoping arrangement;
a lock connected to said first pole section and adapted to secure said second pole section axially relative to said first pole section, said lock comprising:

a base defining an axial through-bore, wherein an end portion of said first pole section is located in said axial through-bore;

a [selectively radially constrictable and expandable] collar connected to said base and selectively radially constrictable relative to said base, said collar defining an opening aligned with said axial through-bore, said second pole section projecting from said first bore of said first pole section and through said opening of said collar, said collar, when radially constricted relative to said base, firmly engaging and

retaining said second pole section in an axially and rotatably fixed position relative to said first pole section;

a fastener connected to and frictionally engaged with said collar so as to be restrained against unintended rotation relative to said collar, said fastener comprising a threaded end that projects outwardly from said collar; and

a control member that mates threadably with said threaded end of said fastener, said control member selectively manually rotatable relative to said fastener in first and second directions to constrict and expand said collar radially, respectively, said fastener restrained against rotation with said control member by frictional engagement between said fastener and said collar.

15. (Amended) A lock apparatus for fixedly securing first and second telescoping pole sections relative to each other, said apparatus comprising:

a first portion adapted for connection to an end portion of a first associated pole section;

a second portion connected to said first portion and defining a [selectively constrictable] collar that is selectively radially constrictable relative to said first portion and adapted for receipt of a second associated pole section partially telescoped into said first associated pole section, said collar, when radially constricted, firmly engaging and fixedly retaining a second associated pole section received thereby, said collar comprising first and second ears separated from each other by a space;

a screw [connected to] extending through said first and second ears of said collar and including a headed end and an opposite threaded end, said screw comprising an unthreaded portion that is tightly frictionally engaged with only one of said first and second ears; and

a lever operably coupled to said threaded end of said screw and adapted for rotation in a first direction on said screw causing said lever to be advanced on said screw towards said headed end [whereby] so that said collar is radially constricted, and adapted for rotation in a second direction opposite said first direction [whereby] so that said lever moves away from said headed end of said screw and said collar resiliently radially expands, wherein said tight frictional engagement between said unthreaded portion of said screw and said one of said first and second ears restrains said screw against rotation with said lever when said lever is moved in said first and second directions.